



SUMMARY ON STEERING GROUP MEETING

**COMHAFAT Secretariat
Rabat, Monday 27 July 2015
09:30 – 13:00 h**

Preparation of a Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) as a policy tool to improve transparency of fishing operations and fight against IUU fishing in Africa

Participants

Pierre Fayet (Consultant, workshop leader coordinator)
Abdellaouhed Bennabou (COMHAFAT Executive Secretary)
Assara Hayat and Mohammed Haddad (COMHAFAT Secretariat)
Alexandre Rodriguez (LDAC Executive Secretary)
Miguel Herrera (LDAC-OPAGAC, on behalf of Julio Morón)

1. BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1. Work between LDAC and COMHAFAT

In May 2013, the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) and the Ministerial Conference among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim to promote the conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of fishery resources.

The three key objectives to be developed under this MoU are:

1. Fighting against Illegal Undeclared and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, including the improvement of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems.
2. Capacity building in the African coastal states, promoting good practices and coordination programmes at a regional level.
3. Improving governance and transparency in fisheries management. Along this line, a specific case study for the tuna fleet could be developed as a benchmark to be transposed to other fisheries.

Following a number of side events jointly organized by both organisations in 2013 and 2014, and a high profile event held in Brussels in 2013, it was deemed necessary to maintain momentum of collaboration and pursue further actions to be implemented in 2015.

An opportunity arose as a result of a call for studies opened by the DG MARE of the European Commission addressed directly to COMHAFAT as a nominal grant under its EMFF 2015 Annual Programme.

As a result, discussions took place at the last WG5 meeting held in Brussels on March 2015 and it was agreed that the LDAC Secretary and the Chair of WG5, Mr. Morón, would provide technical assistance to ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT Secretariat in order to prepare a project proposal. This was done during April and in May 2015 COMHAFAT formally applied for a EU nominal grant that was awarded in June.

1.2. Terms of Reference

COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO will hold 2 themed workshops in the second half of 2015 and early 2016 to foster cooperation in COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO area in the fields of improving monitoring, control and surveillance on a regional basis and fighting against IUU fishing; and enhancing transparency of Fisheries Partnership Agreements between African countries and their counterparts. In both workshops the following actors should be involved:

- COMHAFAT and other Regional African Organisations
- European Institutions (Commission, Council and European Parliament);
- International institutions (ICCAT, international development agencies...);
- National Administrations and control authorities from African and European Countries, and the European Fisheries Control Agency;
- Fisheries stakeholders (including legal fishing operators and environmental and development NGOs) and members of the Long Distance Advisory Council.

Workshop 1 on MCS would be structured around three main themes:

1. Development of a Regional Observers Programme (scope, recruitment and selection, protocol of implementation between COMHAFAT partner countries)
2. Capacity building: training and formation of observers
3. Data gathering, processing and delivering: communication protocol for data exchange, formatting, administrative and legal procedures...

It was noted that all the organizational aspects would be managed by ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT assisted by the sub Regional Fisheries Organizations (RFO's) in western Africa and the LDAC. COMHAFAT is the sole applicant and beneficiary of the EU grant, with the LDAC providing technical advice only to develop the content of the programme.

1.3. Role of the Steering Group

A Steering Group (SG) for the organisation and logistics of this seminar was set up by ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT Secretariat in July 2015, with the following duties:

- Composition: The SG was decided to be composed of staff of ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT and the LDAC Secretariat, being the Chair the Executive Secretary and a fisheries consultant was hired to coordinate the programme and the organization (speakers, reporting...) of this event. For the kick off meeting, assistance was also sought from the Chair of Working Group 4, being also open to other other designated members elected by the industry/NGO group of the LDAC, in particular the Chairs or Vice chairs of LDAC WGs 1 (ICCAT) and 4 (Fisheries Agreements with Third Countries).

- Tasks: The ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT Secretariat and the consultant will act as general coordinators and will follow up work actions and agreements between meetings. They will also draft the report and conclusions of each SG meeting and deal with any administrative and financial aspects related to this project.
- Communications / Outreach: The outcomes and proposals arising from the workshops will be recorded in a comprehensive report for each Workshop, including deliberations held at round table discussions and building a clear structure which is result based.

A final report will be presented to the ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT membership at its Plenary sessions (technical meetings and Ministers Conference) so they can endorse the accords reached and recommendations made and adopt them at regional level.

Presentation of the final report conclusions will be made at ICCAT and other international fora. This will help to highlight the lessons learnt and benefits of this project.

It is aimed that the communications outreach will also help African countries members of ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT to improve mutual understanding and build trust on regional cooperation for implementation of their national action plans.

2. Report and outcomes of the Steering Group:

2.1. Transparency and stakeholders' involvement

The LDAC Executive Secretary informed at the beginning of the meeting to all SG members that communication and transparency of the work progress made amongst COMHAFAT members and inclusiveness of stakeholders since the outset is key for the success of this initiative. It was also highlighted the need to take into account both European and African stakeholders, the latter including coastal communities and artisanal fishermen.

2.2. Date and venue of the seminar and list of participants

The Seminar will be held in Marrakech (Morocco) on Tue 27 and Wed 28 October 2015. It will be limited to 50-60 delegates, namely 2 representatives per COMHAFAT country and 5-10 LDAC representatives. It will also count with speakers and representatives from European (DG MARE, DG DEVCO), African (AU) and international organisations (FAO, ICCAT). A formal letter of invitation addressed to the Chair/Secretary of the LDAC will be issued in due course.

PROVISIONAL LIST OF CONTACTED PARTICIPANTS

Constituting Member States from ATLAFCO-COMHAFAT (2 per country)

Angola, Bénin, Cameroun, Cap vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Gabon, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée Conakry, Guinée Bissau, Guinée Equatoriale, Libéria, Mauritanie, Maroc, Namibia, Nigéria, RDC, Sao tomé et Principé, Sierra Leone , Sénégal, Togo

International Organisations

UE, LDAC, FAO, ICCAT, COREP, CPCO, CSRP, CGPM, INFOPECHE, REPAO

ONG

Stop Illegal Fishing, ISSF, WWF, CAOPA, EIJ

Other invited authorities

Mr Sébastien COPIN, Conseiller Pêche, Délégation de l'Union européenne au Maroc
Représentant de l'Agence de Pêche Russe

Mr. Jorge Fernández Martínez, Conseiller d'Agriculture, Alimentation et Environnement Auprès de l'Ambassade d'Espagne au Maroc

Speakers

Professor Martin TSAMENYI, ANCORS	Michel Goujon, LDAC-ORTHONGEL
Nicolas Feri, FAO-GFCM	Julio Morón, LDAC-OPAGAC
Charline Gaudin, Consultant	Nicolás Goñi, AZTI
Mike Faye, Gabon Bleu	Papa Kebe/Victor Restrepo, ISSF
Samuel Quaatay, DG Fisheries Ghana	Martin Hall, IATTC
Anna Erastus, Fisheries Ministry Namibia	Mathieu Cavarieri, FAO
Stylianios Mitolidis, DG MARE	Juan Pablo Rodríguez, LDAC-ANABAC

Aarone Spezzani, DG MARE

NGO representatives (to be decided)

2.3. Draft agenda and programme of the workshop (in French)



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

*CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE
LES ETATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE*

*MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN*

INITIATIVE POUR LA TRANSPARENCE DANS LA PECHERIE THONIERE (ITT) DANS LA ZONE COMHAFAT

Atelier n° 1: Suivi, contrôle et surveillance (SCS), un outil efficace pour la
lutte contre la pêche INN/IUU.

Marrakech, Maroc, 27-28 octobre 2015

PROJET D'ORDRE DU JOUR

Mardi 27 octobre 2015

OUVERTURE ET INTRODUCTION DE L'ATELIER	
08.00-09.00	Enregistrement
09.00-10.00	Ouverture • Allocution du Représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire, Président de la COMHAFAT • Allocution du Représentant du Gouvernement du Maroc • Allocution du Représentant de la FAO • Allocution du Représentant de l'UE • Allocution du Représentant de LDAC
10.00-10.30	Introduction de l'atelier
10.30-11.00	Pause-café
LE SUIVI, CONTROLE ET SURVEILLANCE (SCS) : ASPECTS GÉNÉRAUX	
11.00-12.30	<i>Les outils SCS mis en œuvre par les États membres de la COMHAFAT :</i> • Vue d'ensemble : définition, composantes, historique, soubassements juridiques, objectifs contraintes, etc., Nicolas Feri, FAO-GFCM

	- Revue des outils développés par les 22 États membres, consultant de la COMHAFAT - Articulations entre SCS et politiques des pêches, Charline Gaudin (à confirmer), Consultante - discussion autour du cadre de mise en œuvre du SCS et de son opérationnalisation - synthèse et recommandations
12.30-13.30	Déjeuner
LE SUIVI, CONTROLE ET SURVEILLANCE (SCS) : MISES EN ŒUVRES NATIONALES ET REGIONALES	
13.30-15.00	<i>Des outils SCS efficaces, quelques exemples nationaux :</i> - Gabon : les résultats de l'initiative du Gabon bleu - Maroc : M. Benbari (à confirmer), ministère des Pêches - Ghana : Samuel Quatey, Directeur des pêches, Ghana - Namibie : Anna Erastus, Ministère des pêches et des ressources marines Libéria : intervenant à identifier - Tour de table pour faire connaître les autres initiatives nationales d'intérêt
15.00-16.30	<i>Des initiatives régionales à souligner :</i> - CICTA : M. Driss Meski, secrétariat CICTA - COMHAFAT : Mohamed Sadiki, Secretariat COMHAFAT - CGPM : représentant de la FAO-GFCM - CPCO : Séraphin Dedi Nadje, Secrétaire général du CPCO - COREP : Emile Essema, Secrétaire Exécutif de la COREP - CSRP : Cdt Ba, chef du service SCS, CSRP - Discussion axée sur la coopération régionale - Synthèse et recommandations
16.30-17.00	Pause-café
LE SUIVI, CONTROLE ET SURVEILLANCE (SCS) : LES ELEMENTS D'UN PROGRAMME RÉGIONAL	
17.00-18.30	<i>Présentation générale et technique du SCS</i> - Point de vue de la DG-MARE quant à l'efficacité des outils SCS élaborés, Stylianios Mitolidis, DG-MARE, UE - Éléments clés de la réussite de la mise en œuvre des outils SCS, notamment dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du plan national d'action contre la pêche INN, Martin Tsamenyi, ANCORS

	• Discussion autour de la mise en œuvre d'un système SCS régional, incluant les eaux internationales • synthèse et recommandations
18.30	Fin de la première journée

Mercredi 28 octobre 2015

LES PROGRAMMES D'OBSERVATEURS DANS LA ZONE COMHAFAT	
09.00-10.30	<i>Les programmes d'observateurs des flottes thonières dans l'océan Atlantique selon le point de vue :</i> • des institutions : ▪ Programme des observateurs de la CICTA, représentant de la CICTA ▪ Perspectives de l'UE : Aarone Spezzani, DG-MARE ▪ Perspectives de en matière de renforcement des capacités et formation, représentant de l'Agence Européenne de Contrôle de Pêche • des armateurs : ▪ Revue du programme d'observateurs à bord des navires thoniers UE : ○ EU-France : Michel Goujon, Orthongel. ○ EU-Spain : Nicolás Goñi, AZTI Tecnalia. • des ONG : ▪ L'expérience de la Fondation pour la durabilité des produits marins internationaux (ISSF), Papa Kebe / Victor Restrepo, ISSF. ▪ Programmes d'observation et surveillance participative, échange d'information, ONG représentant à confirmer CAPE/WWF/EJF,
10.30-11.00	Pause-café
VERS UN PROGRAMME REGIONAL D'OBSERVATEURS DANS LA ZONE COMHAFAT	
11.00-12.30	<i>Discussion autour des perspectives de mise en place d'un programme régional d'observateurs des flottes thonières</i> • Discussion autour des facteurs clés du succès d'un programme d'observateurs et de la faisabilité d'un programme régional d'observateurs

	• synthèse et recommandations
12.30-13.30	Déjeuner
DEVELOPPEMENT D'UN CADRE DE RÉFÉRENCE POUR LA COLLECTE DES DONNÉES D'OBSERVATION, LEUR TRAITEMENT, ANALYSE ET DISSÉMINATION	
13.30-15.00	<i>Perspective de mise en place d'un cadre régional intégré des données d'observation</i> • Expérience de la «Inter-American-Tropical-Tuna-Commission » (IATTC), Martin Hall, secrétariat de l'IATTC • Expérience de la CICTA, Driss Meski, CICTA • Discussion autour de la faisabilité du développement d'un cadre régional intégré des données d'observation • synthèse et recommandations
DEVELOPPEMENT D'UN MECANISME D'INSPECTION PORTUAIRE	
15.00-16.30	<i>Perspective de mise en place d'un programme d'harmonisation régionale d'inspection portuaire pour les navires étrangers</i> • Revue de la mise en œuvre de programmes d'inspection portuaire, Mathieu Cavarieri, FAO • Point de vue de l'UE sur l'émergence d'un programme d'inspecteurs portuaires, représentant du service d'inspection portuaire, UE • Perspective de l'industrie de l'UE vis-à-vis de l'inspection portuaire, Juan Pablo Rodríguez, ANABAC • Proposition de la COMHAFAT pour l'émergence d'un programme régional d'inspecteurs portuaires, notamment l'harmonisation des situations nationales, Naji Laamrich, Secrétariat COMHAFAT • Discussion autour de la faisabilité d'un programme régional d'inspecteurs portuaires • synthèse et recommandations
16.30-17.00	Pause-café
CONCLUSIONS ET PROCHAINES ÉTAPES	
17.00-18.30	<i>Adoption des conclusions de l'atelier sur les priorités et les actions à entreprendre, définition des prochaines étapes et élaboration d'une feuille de route (notamment la rédaction d'un document d'accord régional volontaire pour les parties)</i>
18.30	Fin de l'atelier

Key messages and ideas for discussion

1. The Seminar's main aspiration/aim is to build an agreement to develop a regional MCS system that helps to improve transparency and accountability of fishing activities held in the EEZ of African States, improving regional governance and contributing to fight against IUU fishing in the area.
2. A first step to develop this MCS system is to consider the implementation of a regional observer programme to monitor the activities of foreign licensed fishing vessels in the EEZ of COMHAFAT Member Countries. The scope will be limited in a first phase to European-owned tuna purse seine vessels, considered as a whole, in waters where they have access rights and public/private fishing licenses.
3. The regional observer programme should define the 3 main pillars:
 - The scope, competencies, recruitment and selection of observers between COMHAFAT partner countries.
 - The Protocol for data compilation, processing and sharing between competent administrations/Coastal MS.
 - Enhancing Capacity building in 3rd countries: training and validation of observers at regional level.
4. The best available scientific advice is needed to inform and underpin fisheries management decisions, in particular as refers to assessing the impacts of tuna fisheries on target species and the ecosystem. This program will help to improve scientific assessments as standardized data will be available and shared between COMHAFAT and ICCAT.
5. A formal regional structure and procedure for data exchange needs to be set in place and agreed by COMHAFAT countries in accordance with the international standards in use. The idea is to collect scientific data in a standardised and systematic way for the activities of the tuna fleet in the West African countries in the Western African area.

The present initiative is compatible with other data collection programmes and control schemes developed for artisanal fisheries and also with samplings in land at local level.

6. COMHAFAT Secretariat will prepare a draft Agreement to establish the terms of reference for a data exchange and repository system, with a very clear confidentiality policy to respect data privacy and ownership.

COMHAFAT could be the recipient and holder of this data in coordination with national African and EU flag States administrations and control authorities. In terms of processing and dealing with these data, dedicated staff could be hired to develop a sort of regional control center to coordinate all this data that could be also shared with ICCAT through a pre-agreed protocol that guarantees confidentiality in the use of communications.

The Protocol will specify the way in which every COMHAFAT country will receive the full observer information of the fleet while in the corresponding EEZ.

7. The MCS system will be initially implemented as a collaborative framework on a voluntary basis. The EU owned tuna purse seiners vessels will be the “case study” or benchmark for assessing the effectiveness of its initiative.

If satisfactory, the resulting methodology and working practices in an enabling environment could be applied in a stepwise approach to other fleets. For example, it could be extended to other foreign fleets operating in the COMHAFAT member countries EEZs and the remaining EU fleet segments or métiers (e.g. pelagic and demersal trawlers, long liners...) and to the industrial and artisanal fisheries of African coastal States.

8. The EU fleet will cover all costs related to observers on board of their boats. Once the regional scheme could be agreed, COMHAFAT participating countries will collectively organize a system for data dissemination and maintenance. LDAC will fully support COMHAFAT to find international cooperation in order to set up the Regional Observer Scheme.
9. Capacity building, including training of observers, is an essential component of this programme as well as a tool for African countries to improve qualification of its international observers and allow them to have a cost-effective system of working with fellow observers from other countries in a coordinated manner and avoiding duplicities of inspections to the fleets that are fishing migratory stocks across borders but are subjected to the rules of the different fisheries agreements.
10. In terms of participatory governance, not only policy makers and EU and African industrial fishing fleets, but also any interested stakeholders such as environment and cooperation NGOs and legitimate representatives of artisanal fisheries and civil society must be engaged from the outset in this process in identifying tasks and priorities as well as having access to scientific and control official reports, findings and results to ensure buy in and accountability to the process.

By Alexandre Rodríguez, LDAC Executive Secretary

Date: 5 August 2015

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